

# *Fourth Annual Watershed-friendly Garden Tour*

Sunday, June 4th 1 PM – 5 PM

*Tour local homes that feature watershed-friendly elements, such as cisterns, rain barrels, rain gardens, backyard wildlife habitat, and native species. Talk with local residents about their experience making their garden more watershed-friendly, and pick up a free resource booklet with ideas for your own yard!*



*Visit the following locations on the tour to see examples of watershed stewardship at home. General directions are included from a major intersection near each location, but please refer to a map.*

## **Alexandria Sites**

*These two homes are both on Alexandria Avenue. From 395, take Glebe Rd. south. Turn right on Mt. Vernon Avenue, proceed about a mile, and turn left on Alexandria Avenue to #409. To get to 114 W. Alexandria, proceed west from #409 E. Alexandria Ave, across Mt. Vernon Ave and Commonwealth Ave, to #114 W. Alexandria Ave.*

- ❖ **409 East Alexandria Avenue, Alexandria, VA.** Visit a City Council member's home, featuring three rain barrels, a grass driveway, a compost area, a large raingarden, and extensive use of water loving plants to reduce water run-off into nearby storm sewers.
- ❖ **114 West Alexandria Avenue, Alexandria, VA** - This home features a brick walkway set in sand to filter rainwater, a raingarden that receives drainage from the sump pump, channels to direct drainage planted areas, and a woodland environment with extensive use of native plants.

From I-395, exit Shirlington/Quaker onto Quaker Lane. At the first light on Quaker, turn left onto Preston Road. Follow Preston to Valley Drive and turn right on Gunston Road. Go half-way up the hill till you see a white retaining wall on the right. 3478 Gunston is in the second building in from the street.

- ❖ **NEW! Parkfairfax Condominium, 3478 Gunston Rd., Alexandria, VA.** This condominium complex has undertaken a major invasive plant removal project in the wooded areas on the property. The property also features a shady-slope garden, a sunny-slope garden, a small raingarden, and a woodland edge garden.

## Arlington Sites

*From the intersection of King St./Rt. 7 and S. Walter Reed Drive, turn right into the third parking lot on the right (building numbers 2647 - 2657 S. Walter Reed Dr.) Parking is available in the lot. Walk through the courtyard and behind unit numbers 2655 - 2657.*

- ❖ **NEW! The Arlington Condominium, 2655 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, VA.** This condominium features two raingardens and a native plant restoration\* on a hillside, featuring over fifty species of native plants and twenty fern species. There are also bird friendly gardens and rainbarrels.

*The next three sites are located near each other. If you are going north on N. Glebe Rd, make a right onto Pershing Dr. Make a left onto Lincoln, and look for #429.*

- ❖ **NEW! 429 N. Lincoln St., Arlington, VA.** This property features wildlife habitat\*, a gravel driveway, a large pond, shrub borders and mixed planting areas in both shade and sun that are maintained organically, without the use of chemicals. Additionally, there is no lawn of any kind.

*From N. Lincoln St, turn right onto 5<sup>th</sup> St and look for 501 N. Kenmore at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> St and Kenmore.*

- ❖ **NEW! 501 N. Kenmore St., Arlington, VA.** This property features a stone aggregate patio and paths, a pergola seating area, 3 raised vegetable beds and screened compost area behind the kitchen garden. Sixteen trees have been added for wildlife, privacy and habitat restoration.

*Continue along 5<sup>th</sup> St until you reach Jackson St. Make a left on Jackson St and look for #515.*

- ❖ **NEW! 515 N. Jackson St., Arlington, VA.** This wildlife habitat\* includes a variety of native plants on all four sides of the house. A ephemeral stream borders a section of the back plant beds, serving as an attractive drainage feature. The yard has full sun, partially shaded, and shaded areas.

*Take George Mason Drive north. Make a left on Yorktown Blvd, then a right onto N. Harrison St.*

- ❖ **NEW! 3649 N. Harrison St., Arlington, VA.** Backyard wildlife habitat\*, shade garden, pond and stream feature to enjoy while sitting with nature.



***A raingarden at the rear of a yard.***



***A cistern to collect stormwater that is screened by fencing.***

## Falls Church Sites

*Take Lee Highway west/south, crossing Rt. 7. After 0.5 miles, turn right onto W. Westmoreland Road, at the large “mattress” sign.*

- ❖ **109 W. Westmoreland Road, Falls Church, VA** – Complete yard makeover, wide variety of native plants, cisterns (one vertical, one horizontal), backyard wildlife habitat\*, metal roofs.

*From Lee Highway going west, make a right on W. Marshall St. At intersection of Marshall Street and Seaton Lane.*

- ❖ **1101 Seaton Lane, Falls Church, VA** – This property features a cistern, and a backyard makeover, including a “stream” and pond.

*From Lee Highway, make a right on Great Falls St. Near intersection of Great Falls St. and Dorchester Rd.*

- ❖ **604 Langston Lane, Falls Church, VA.** This site has two cisterns, a driveway made of porous pavers, a metal roof, and a yard makeover that includes rain gardens, butterfly garden, native plants.

*One block from Route 7, at the corner of Little Falls Street and Park Avenue (go to the rear of the building).*

- ❖ **NEW! Falls Church City Hall, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA.** Permeable grass pavers, rain garden.

*From Rt. 7, make a right onto Little Falls St, then left onto Great Falls. Go left on N. Virginia Ave.*

- ❖ **NEW! 304 N. Virginia Avenue, Falls Church, VA.** Yard makeover, native plants, English ivy removal, backyard wildlife habitat\*.

### FREE COMPOST BINS & NATIVE PLANT SALE

- ❖ Compost bins will be given away to Falls Church City residents who have visited at least 4 sites and completed a Compost Bin “ticket” (available at 604 Langston Lane).
- ❖ Compost bins may be picked up at 304 N. Virginia Avenue (Beatty-Gilmore residence) after 3 p.m..
- ❖ Also, native plants will be on sale at 304 N. Virginia Ave (sponsored by the Falls Church Environmental Services Council’s Invasive Plant Removal Task Group).

## Fairfax County Sites

*From the Fairfax County Parkway: Exit Fox Mill going West. Turn right onto Monroe Street. Monroe Street becomes Van Buren. Turn right onto Alabama Drive and the house is located on the right-hand side of the street.*

- ❖ **NEW! 515 Alabama Dr., Herndon, VA 20170.** Visitors will see the use of three rain barrels to collect stormwater runoff from a residential home. The home also features a native plant garden.

*From Georgetown Pike / 193, go north on VA 674/Springvale Road.*

- ❖ **NEW! 718 Springvale Rd. Great Falls, VA 22066.** This residential property has a conservation easement and an extensive native plant garden. The house is situated on 5 acres and features a spring-fed pond.

*Hidden Pond may be reached by taking Route 95 south from Beltway Exit 57A to west on Old Keene Mill Road. Cross Rolling Road and turn left at the next light onto Greeley Boulevard and follow three blocks to the park entrance at the end of the street. The rain garden is located adjacent to the walking trail near the parking lot.*

- ❖ **NEW! Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd, Springfield, VA 22152.** Visitors will see a rain garden built and maintained by a Girl Scout troop. The rain garden was constructed

four years ago to collect stormwater runoff from the park's parking lot. The project was funded through a grant from Fairfax Water.

*From I-495: Take Exit 52B (Little River Turnpike East.) Travel 3.5 miles. Turn left on Braddock Road. Drive 2/10ths mile and turn right onto Witch Hazel Road. From I-395: Take Exit 3B (Little River Turnpike West.) Travel 1.25 miles. Turn right on Braddock Road. Drive 0.2 miles and turn right onto Witch Hazel Road.*

- ❖ **NEW! Green Springs Garden Park, 4603 Green Spring Rd. Alexandria, VA 22312.** Green Spring Gardens is a 28-acre Fairfax County park, public garden, and National Historic site. The over 20 demonstration gardens include an organic Kitchen Garden with a rain barrel, a Native Plant Garden, a Swale Garden designed to slow down runoff, a Waterwise Garden that groups together plants with low irrigation needs, and a Wildlife Garden maintained by the Green Spring Master Gardeners.

*From 66: Exit Nutley St. SW/VA -243 N via exit 62 toward Vienna. Turn right onto Maple Avenue West / VA – 123 N. Turn left onto Beulah Road NE / VA-675. Then, turn left onto Meadowlark Gardens Ct.*

- ❖ **NEW! Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, VA 22182. Participants of the watershed-friendly garden tour should proceed to the Visitor's Center and ask for Keith Tomlinson, who will be guiding tours.** Meadowlark Botanical Gardens showcases a collection of native plant species called the Potomac Valley Collection. The collection was developed to foster conservation of native plants and their habitats through public education and display.

***\*Property is certified with National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Habitat.***

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**A \$5 donation is suggested with proceeds to benefit Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment's local conservation efforts. Please pay your donation at the first site you visit. This event is sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria and the City of Falls Church. Please call ACE at 703-228-6427 if you need more information about the tour.**

**Watershed Friendly and Wildlife Habitat Garden Directory** - please check this new online resource for more Northern Virginia watershed friendly gardens! Search by location and feature, plus find properties in your own neighborhood. Visit [www.arlingtonenvironment.org/directory](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/directory).

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>

Arlington County <http://www.arlingtonva.us>

City of Alexandria <http://www.alexandriava.gov>

City of Falls Church <http://www.ci.falls-church.va.us>

Fairfax County <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov>

